

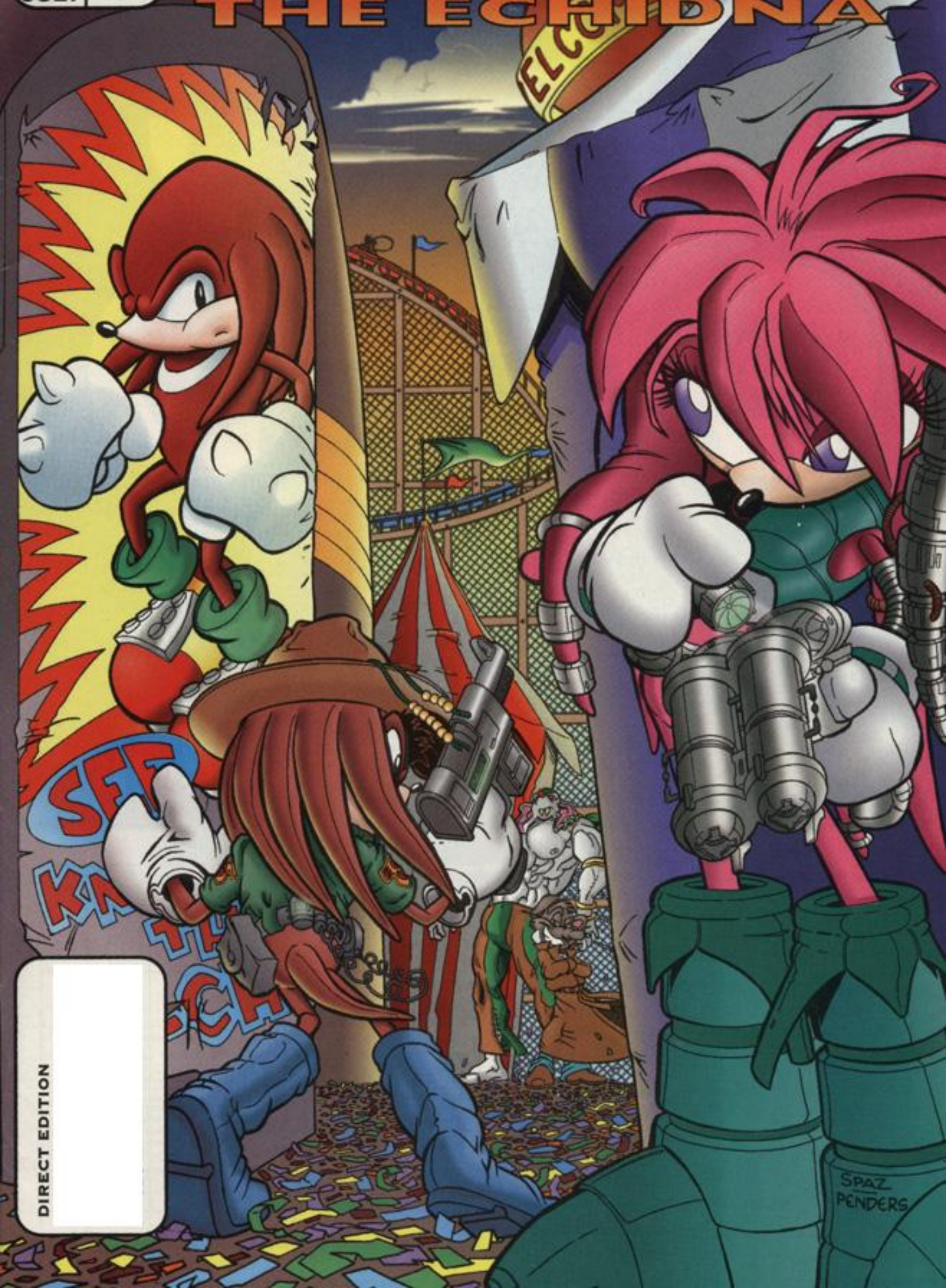
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KNUCKLES

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THE ECHIDNA

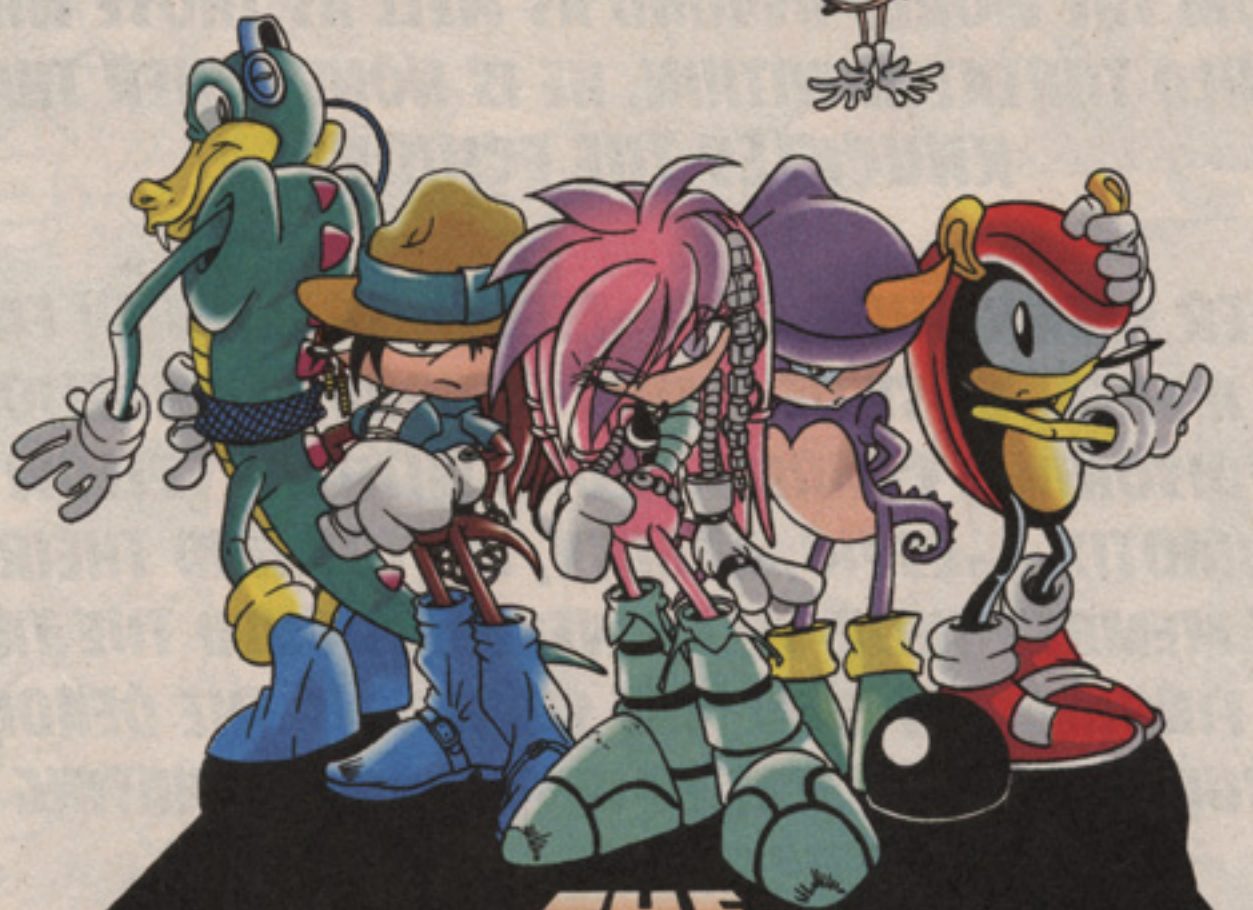


DIRECT EDITION

SPAZ
PENDERS

KNUCKLES™

BOOK FOURTEEN



THE CHAOTIX

CAPER

PART TWO OF THREE

KEN PENDERS: WRITER **MANNY GALAN:** PENCILER **ANDREW PEPOY:** INKER
BARRY GROSSMAN: COLORIST **VICKIE WILLIAMS:** LETTERER
J. FREDDY GABRIE: EDITOR **VICTOR GORELICK:** MANAGING EDITOR
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**BORN TO THE MOST NOBLE OF ECHIDNA HOUSES,
THE LATEST TO CONTINUE THE FAMILY HERITAGE AND
RESPONSIBILITY AS GUARDIAN OF THE FLOATING
ISLAND, DEFENDER OF ALL FROM THE FORCES OF EVIL
FROM THE WORLD BEYOND AS WELL AS THOSE WHO
WOULD THREATEN WITHIN, HE IS NONE OTHER THAN
KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!**

**AFTER SEEING HIS FRIEND, MELLO, TRAGICALLY FALL
TO A FATAL DOSE OF LEMON SUNDROP DANDELION
POISONING, CHARMY, ALONG WITH HIS FELLOW
CHAOTIX - -ESPIO, MIGHTY, VECTOR AND THEIR
NEW MEMBER JULIE-SU - - WERE ASSIGNED THE TASK
OF FINDING OUT WHO WAS SUPPLYING THE DEADLY
SUBSTANCE, HOW THEY WERE CONTAMINATING
THE FOOD CHAIN WITH IT AND STOP
THE ONES RESPONSIBLE.**

**WHILE THE CHAOTIX CARRIED ON THEIR MISSION, ON
THE OTHER SIDE OF MOBIUS, THEIR FRIEND KNUCKLES
IS STILL MAKING HIS WAY BACK FROM THE FABLED
LAND OF ALBION. BEING PURSUED BY A MYSTERIOUS
GROUP, HIDDEN BY THE GLARE OF BLINDING LIGHT,
KNUCKLES ATTEMPTS TO ESCAPE FROM HIS LATEST
PREDICAMENT. THE CHAOTIX, HOWEVER, ARE NOT
HAVING ANY LUCK WITH THEIR CURRENT PREDICAMENT
AS THEY HAVE FALLEN PREY TO AN EVIL VILLAIN'S
SCHEME AND ARE SUFFERING DEARLY
FOR THEIR CARELESS...**



AFTER ALL, WE WOULDN'T WANT OUR ONCE AND FUTURE KING PRESENTING A POOR IMAGE DURING HIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT CEREMONY LATER TODAY!

PERFECT!

A TRUE PRINCE OF THE BEE REALM!

NOOOOOO!!!

SMASHH!!!

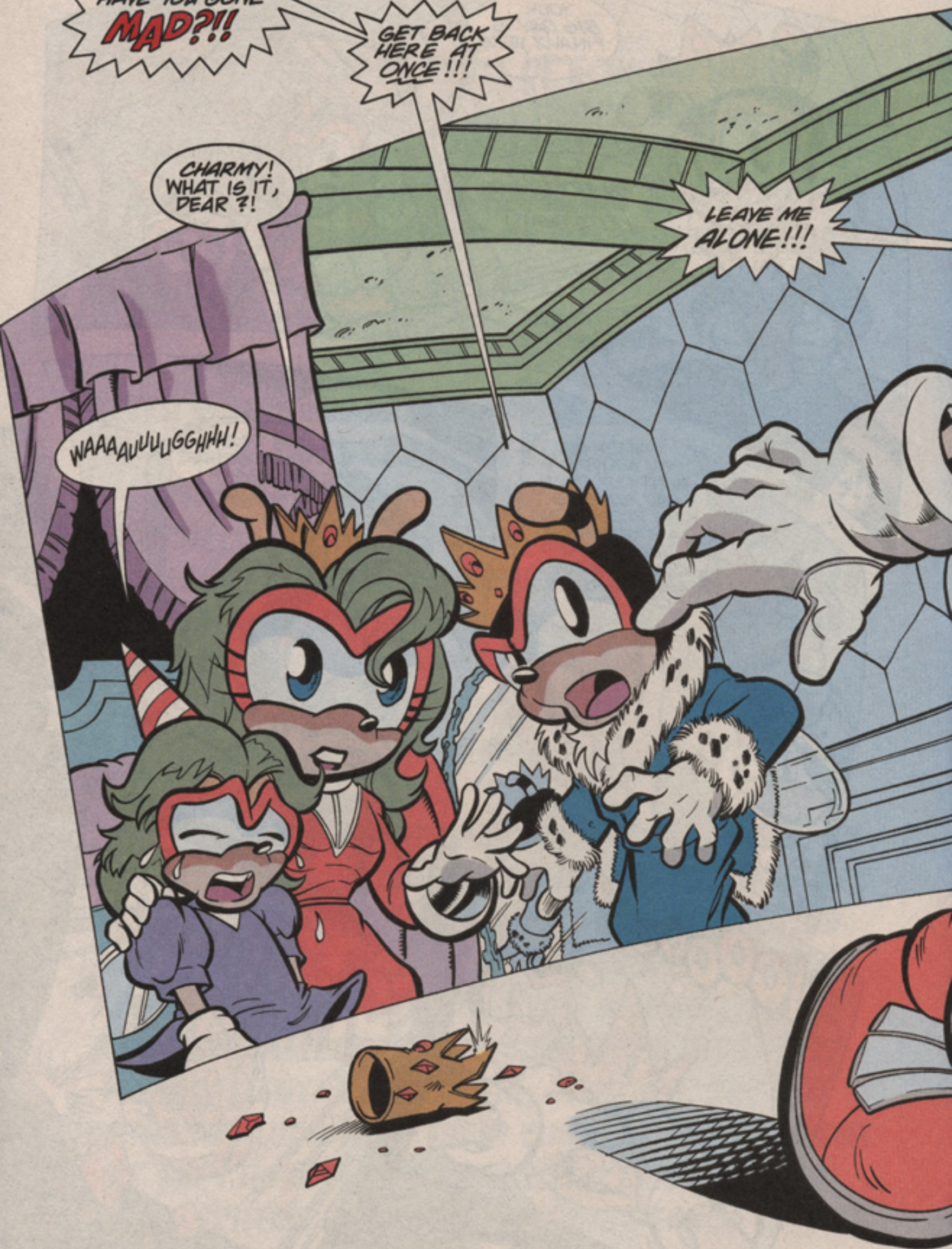
SON!
HAVE YOU GONE
MAD?!!

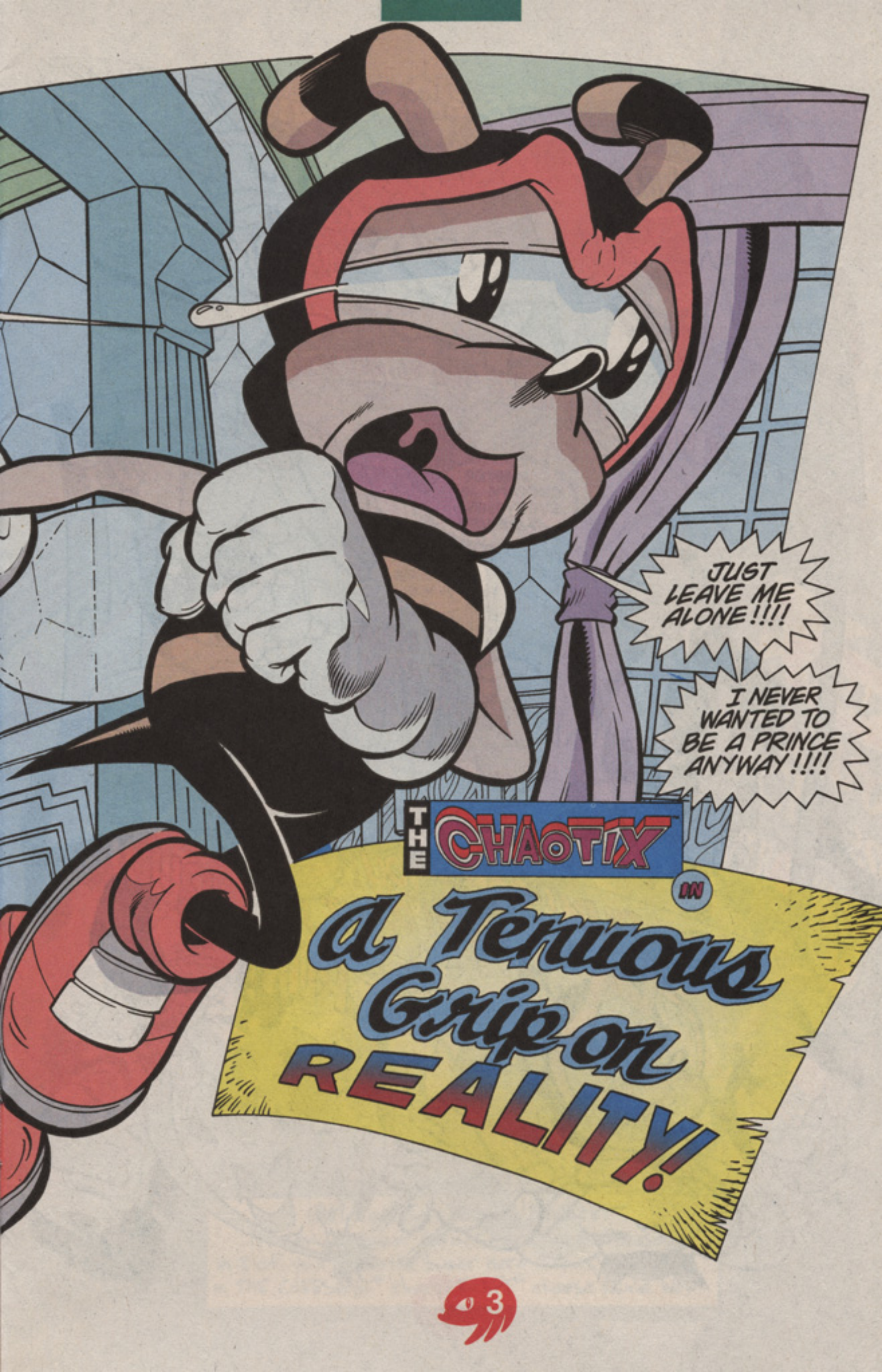
GET BACK
HERE AT
ONCE!!!

CHARMY!
WHAT IS IT,
DEAR ?!

LEAVE ME
ALONE!!!

WAAAAUUUUUGGHHH!





JUST
LEAVE ME
ALONE!!!!

I NEVER
WANTED TO
BE A PRINCE
ANYWAY!!!!

THE **CHAOTIX**

IN

*a Tenuous
Grip on*
REALITY!



WHY DON'T YOU RUN?

HUH?

LOOK OUT--

DIDN'T CARE WHERE YOU WERE GOING, DID YOU?

MASTER CHARMY, IS EVERYTHING ALRIGHT?

WHO'S THERE?

YOU CAN'T FACE US, CAN YOU?

OH-- JEEPERS! IT'S YOU!

YOU WANT TO RUN. DON'T YOU?

--RUN. DON'T YOU?

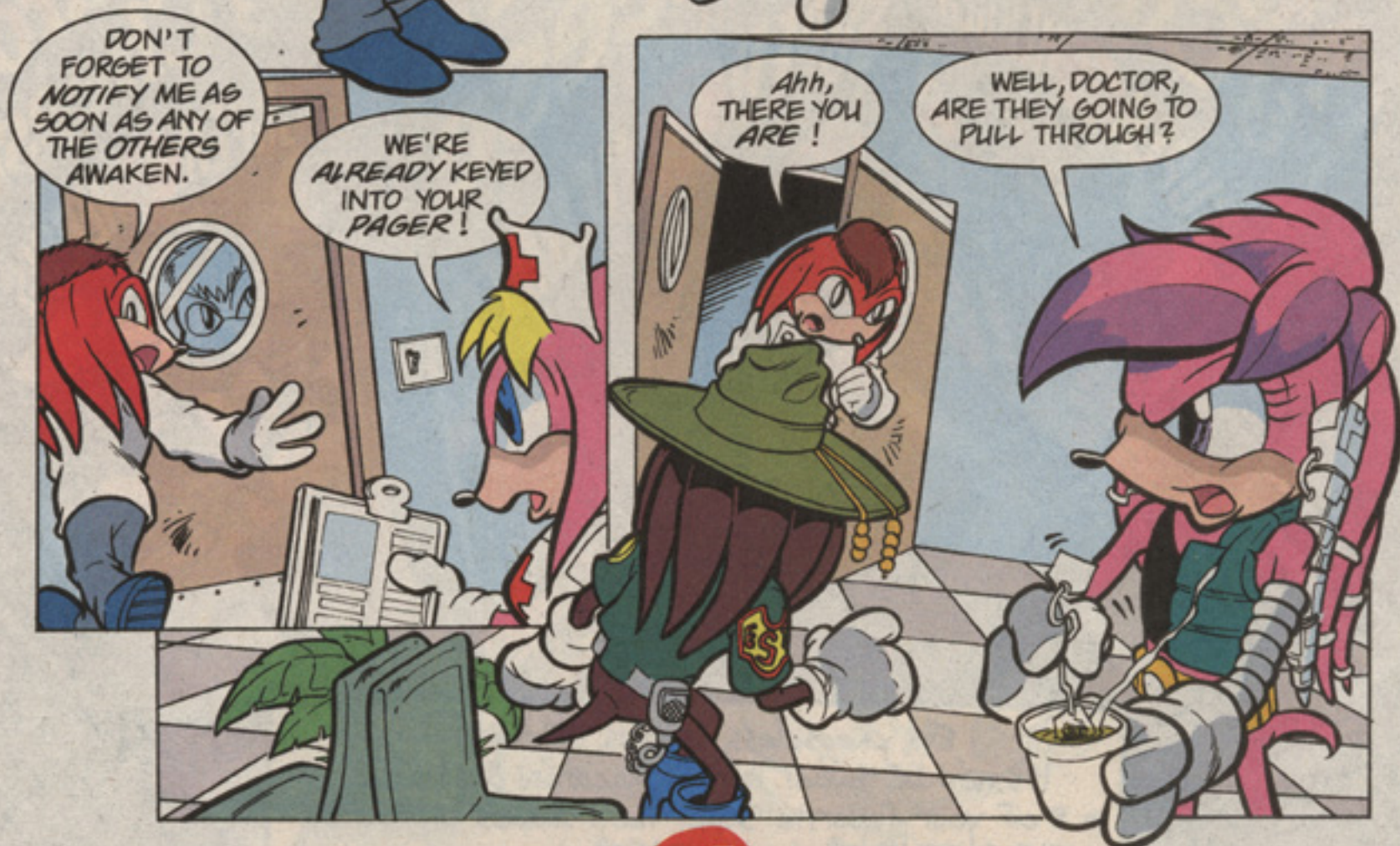
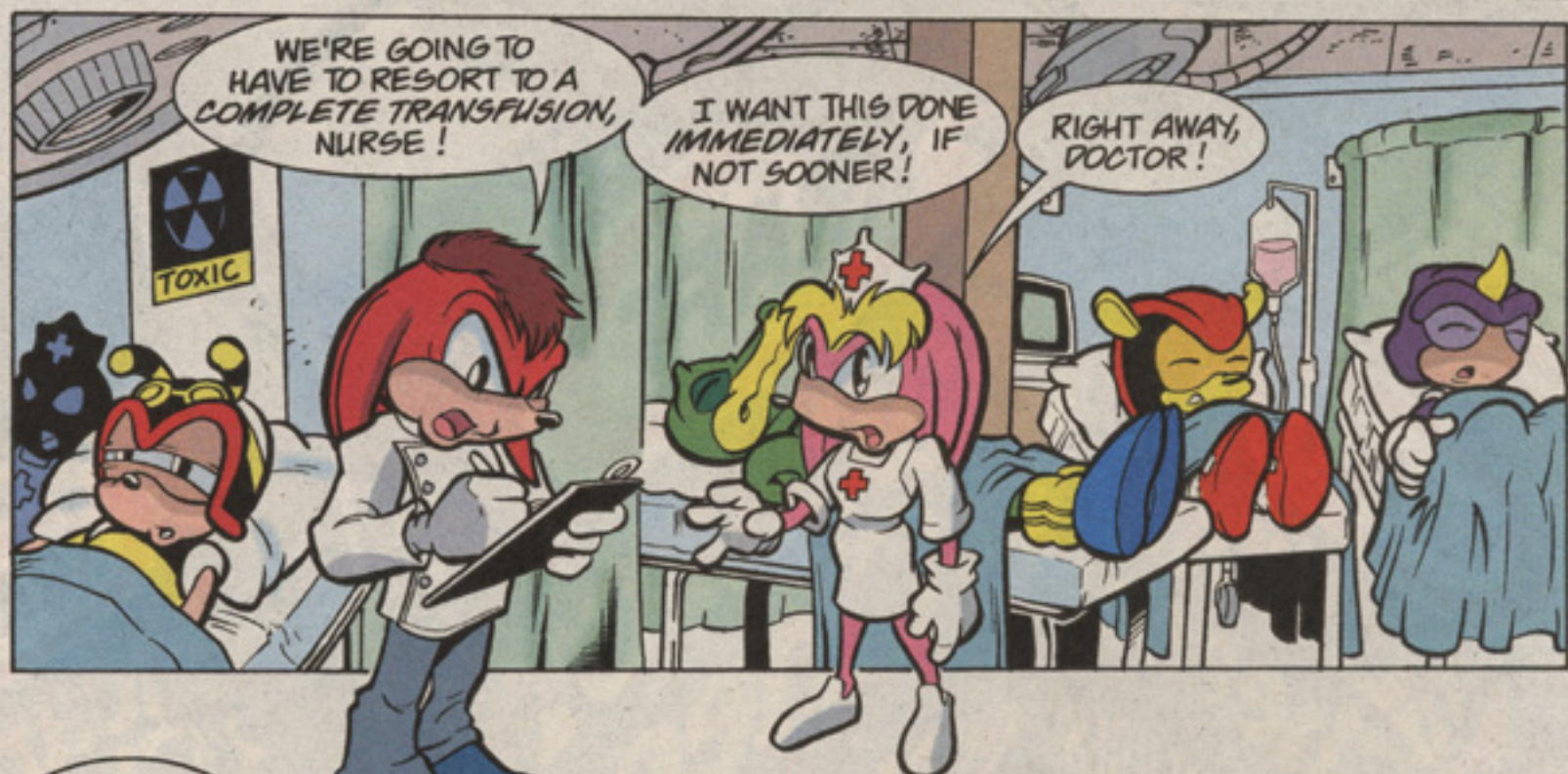
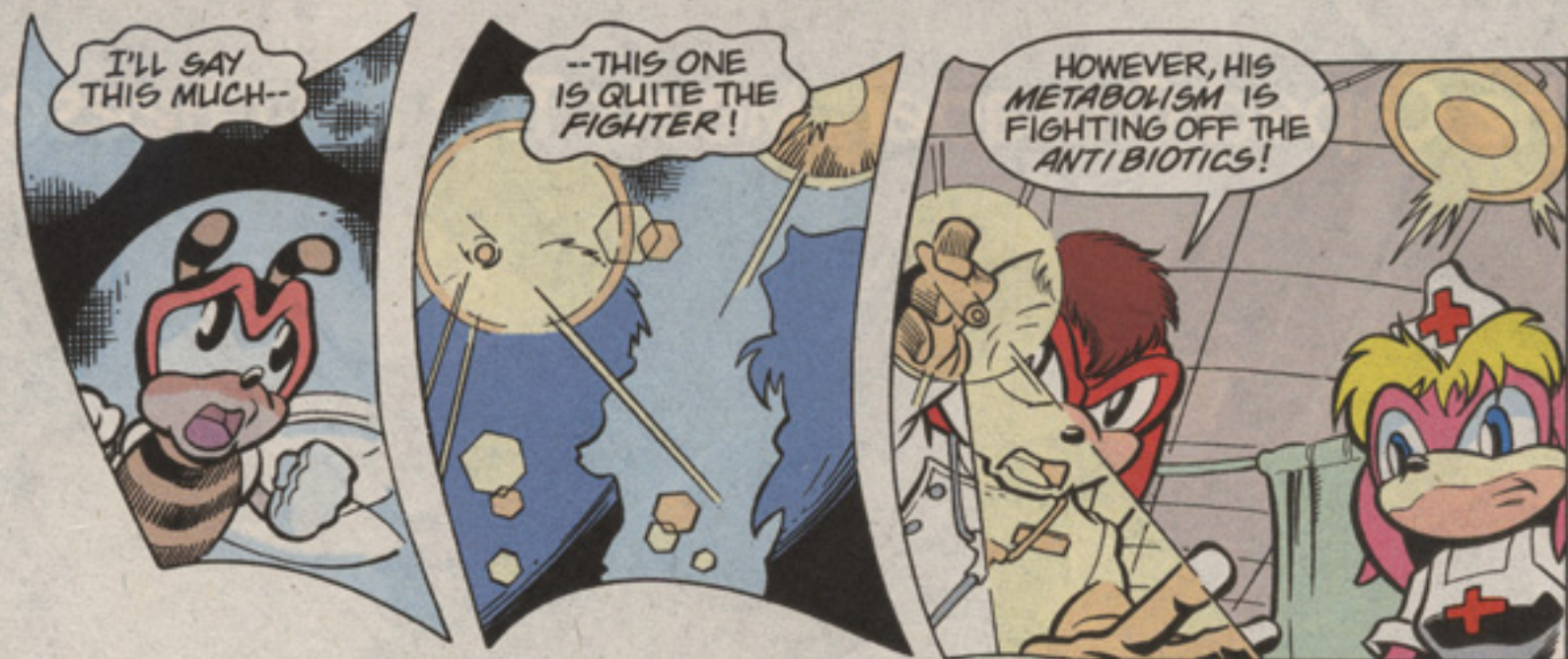
RUN! DON'T YOU?

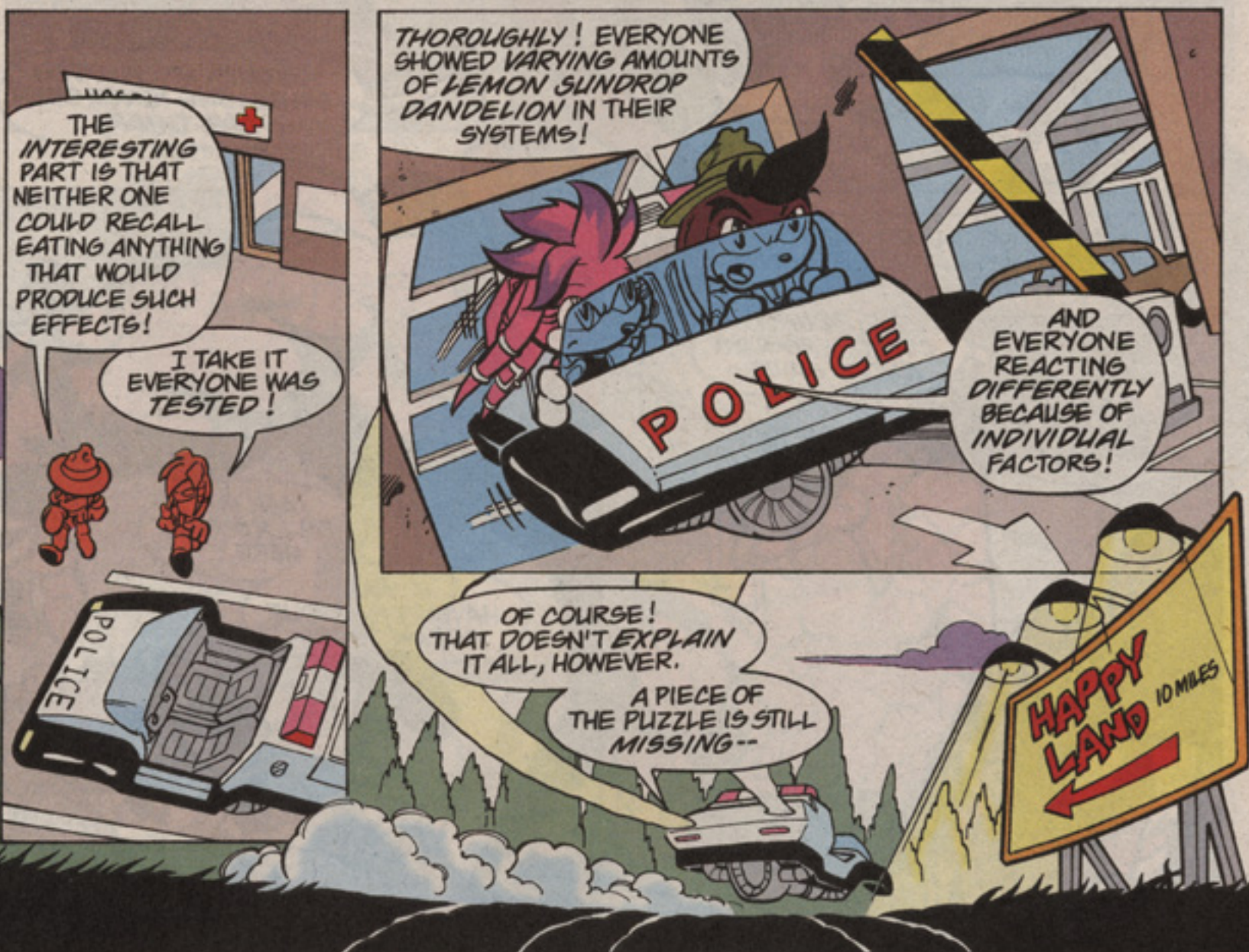
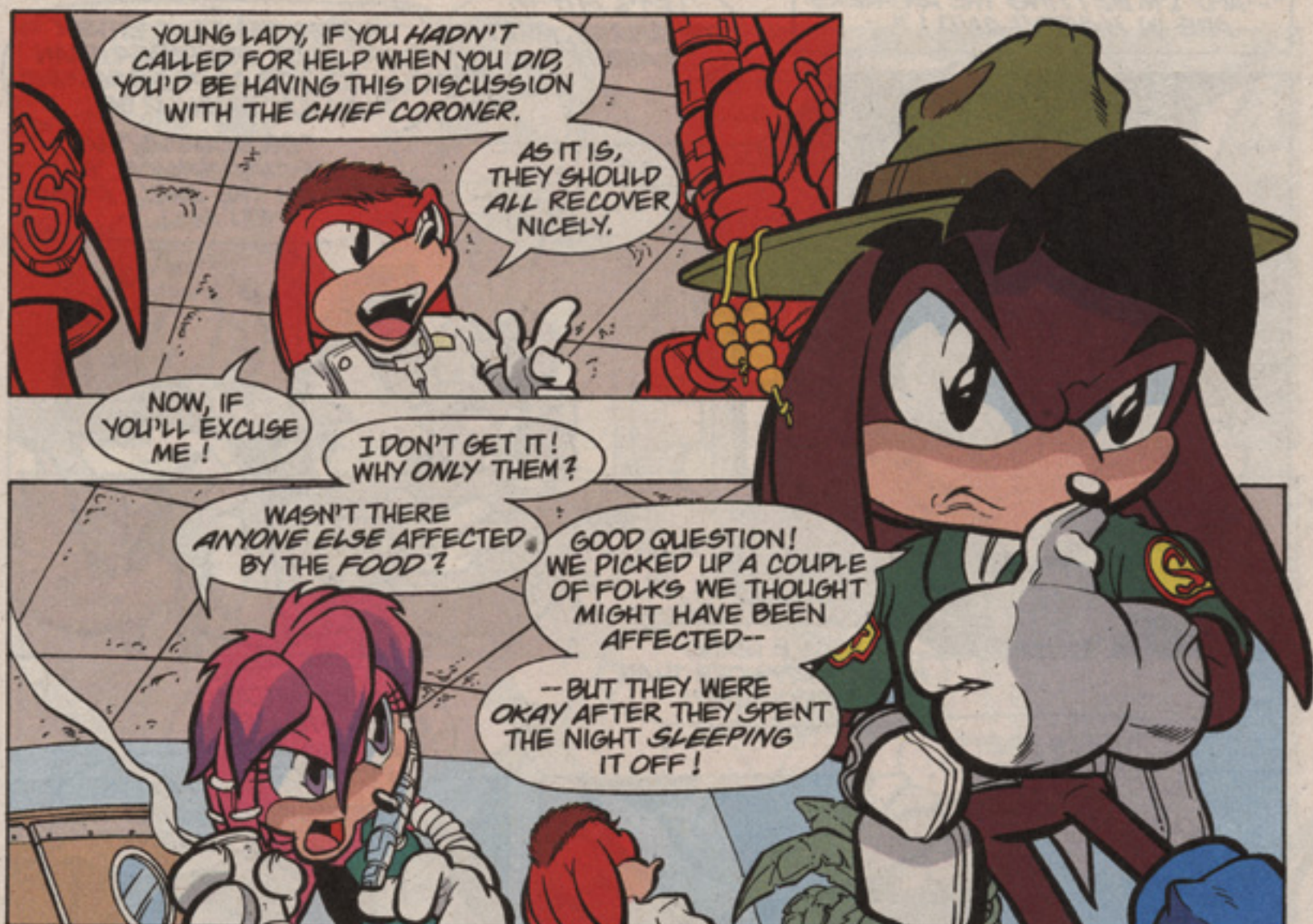
RUN! DON'T YOU?

RUN!

GO AWAY!

RUN!





"--AND I'M BETTING THE ANSWERS ARE IN HAPPYLAND!"

LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE, MISTER RABBIT!

MISTER RENFIELD, EITHER YOU'RE A LOT STUPIDER THAN YOU LOOK, OR A LOT GREEDIER THAN YOU SHOULD BE!

FOR EXAMPLE, THAT SPECIAL SAUCE YOU USE ON THE CHILI DOGS YOU SELL...

WHAT OF IT?

YOU'RE USING WAAAAAAY MORE THAN IS REQUIRED!

THAT'S PRETTY POTENT STUFF!

SO POTENT, IN FACT--

--THAT INSTEAD OF CUSTOMERS WANTING MORE PRODUCT--

--YOU'RE KILLING THE MARKET!

REALLY? MY CHILI DOG SALES HAVE NEVER BEEN HEALTHIER!

EXCEPT FOR THAT INCIDENT YESTERDAY, WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED ONE COMPLAINT! *

THE PAYING CUSTOMERS WANT EXTRA SAUCE--

--I SAY LET 'EM HAVE IT THEIR WAY!

ASK MY PAL, RIPPER, HERE!

IF YOU HAVEN'T HAD YOUR BREAK TODAY--

* RENFIELD IS REFERRING TO LAST ISSUE'S CLIFFHANGER--JUSTIN.



"--I'VE GOT TOO MUCH INVESTED
TO LET A YO-YO LIKE YOU FLUSH
IT ALL DOWN THE TUBES!"

CHARMY!
HOLD ON!

I WANT
TO TALK WITH
YOU!

UH-OH!
IT'S
SAFRON!

WHY
DON'T YOU
TALK TO
ME?

GIRLS!
NOTHING BUT
TROUBLE!

WHATEVER IT IS,
I ONLY WANT TO
HELP!

SHE'S SUCH A
NUDGE!

CAN'T
SHE SEE THAT
I JUST
WANNA BE LEFT
ALONE?!

CHARMS,
M'BUDSMAN!
HOW'S IT
FLYIN'?

WOOF!!!



IT'S MY
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
CEREMONY!

OH,
THAT!

NOBODY ASKS ME
IF THIS IS WHAT I WANT!
I'M JUST EXPECTED
TO GO ALONG!

YEAH! I HEAR
THE SAME JAZZ FROM
MY DAD!

HE'S
ALWAYS
SAYING I
CAN'T
ALWAYS DO
WHAT I
WANT!

I NEED TO
SOLO FOR AWHILE,
MELLO!

WHERE SHOULD
I CATCH UP WITH
YOU, CHARM?

I THINK
I'LL CHECK OUT
THE FLOATING
ISLAND!

DON'T
TELL ANYONE,
OKAY?

MY LIPS
ARE SEALED!
LATER!

THE FLOATING
ISLAND,

YOU'VE SEEN
IT FLY OVERHEAD
MANY TIMES.

YOU'VE OFTEN
WONDERED ABOUT THAT
FABLED LAND SOARING
THROUGH THE SKIES.

AND NOW--

--NOW
YOU'RE RUSHING
TO EXPERIENCE
ITS WONDERS,

REALITY
IS ABOUT
TO REPLACE
FANTASY.

IF YOU'RE
GOING TO ESCAPE
RESPONSIBILITIES--

-- WHY NOT HIDE
OUT WHERE YOUR
PARENTS WOULD
NEVER SUSPECT ?

NO REASON
NOT TO MAKE--

--NEW FRIENDS.

HELLO?

I HEAR YOU,
BUT I CAN'T
SEE YOU!

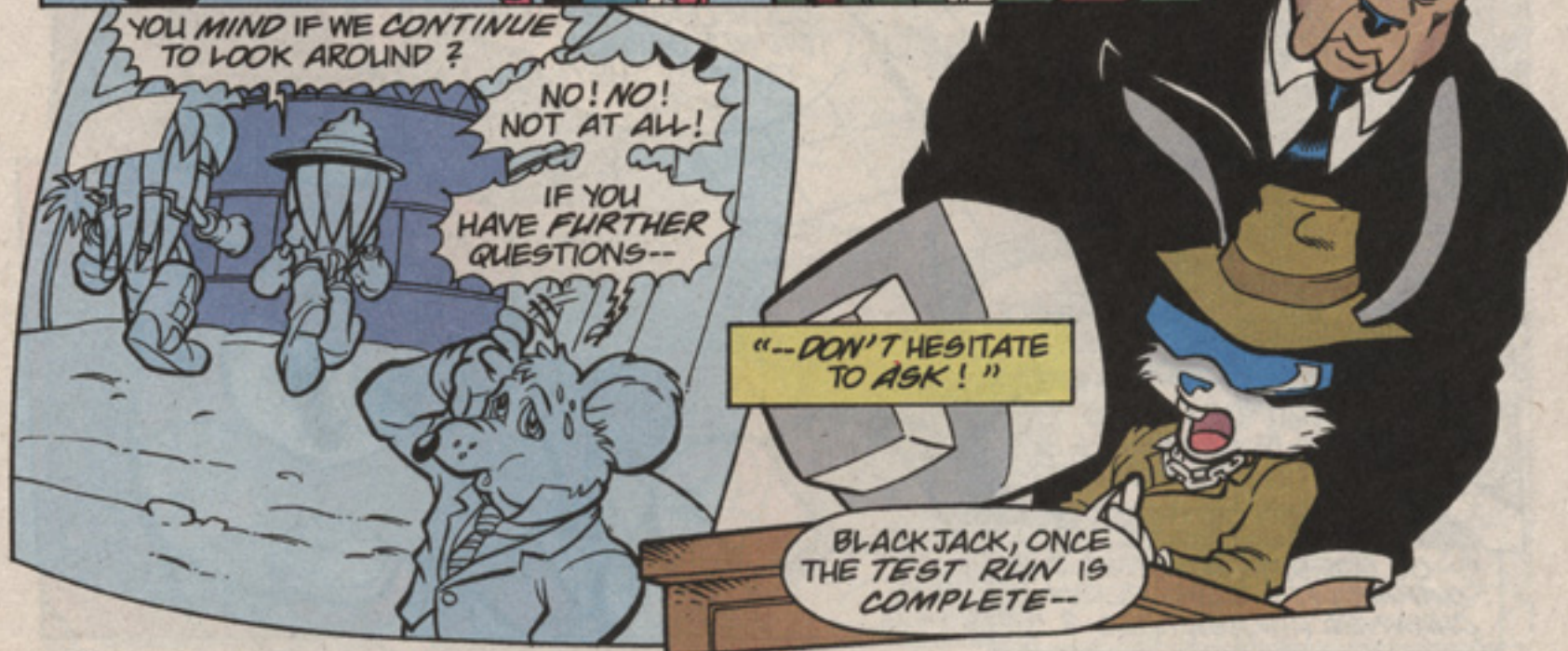
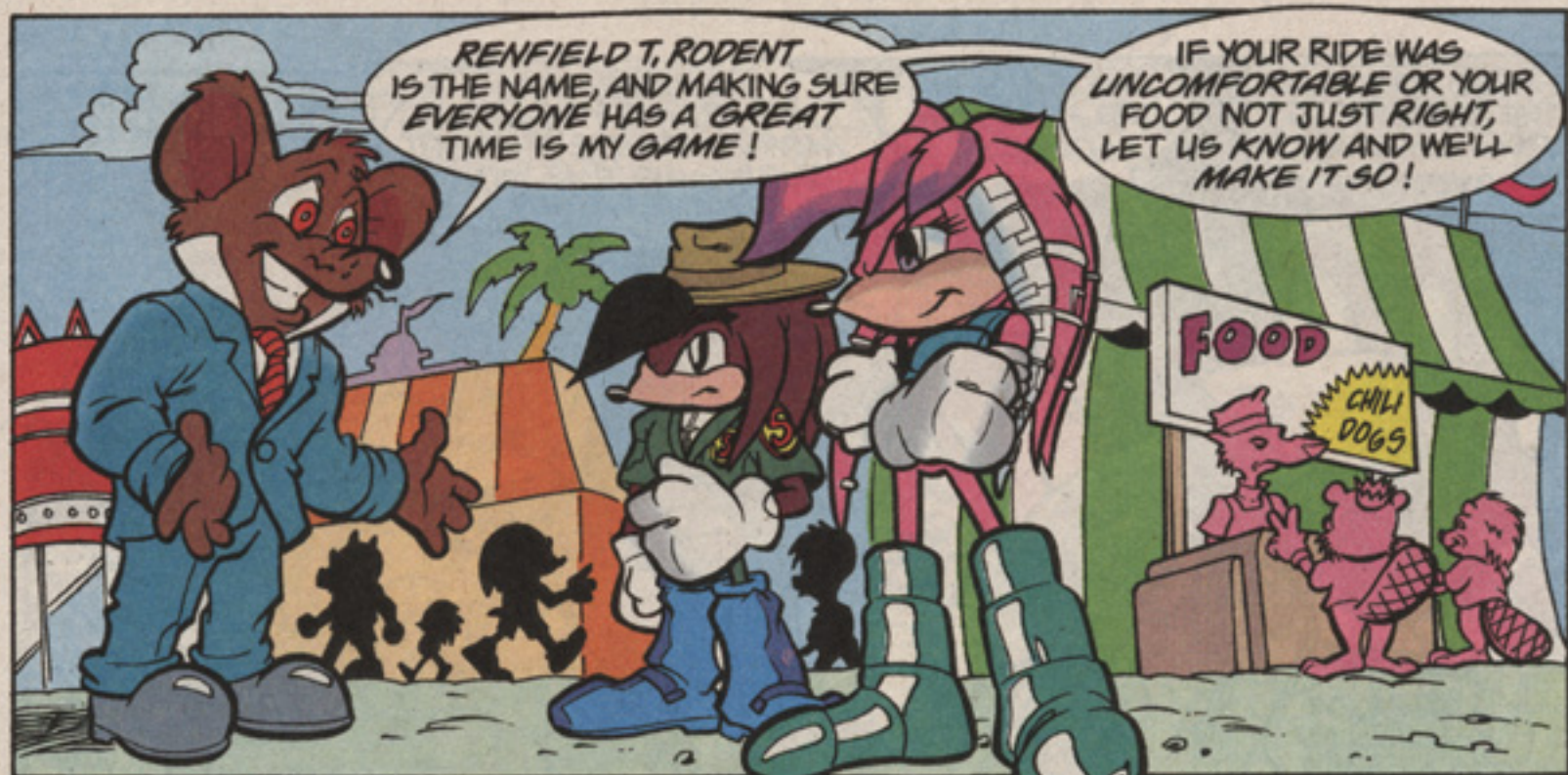
AWWW, YOU
CAN COME OUT,
WHOEVER YOU
ARE!

HEY!

YOU MUST BE
NEW HERE! I'VE
NEVER SEEN
ANYONE LIKE YOU
BEFORE!

MY NAME
IS MIGHTY, THE
ARMADILLO.





"--SEE TO IT THAT
THE RODENT IS
DEEP-SIXED!"

THE FAT'S IN
THE FIRE NOW,
LOCKE!

KNUCKLES HAS
APPARENTLY LEARNED
MORE THAN WE THOUGHT
DURING HIS TIME WITH
ATHAIR, FATHER!

HOW MUCH
REMAINS TO
BE SEEN!

THAT'S
QUITE SOME
SPECTACLE
HE'S PUTTING
ON!

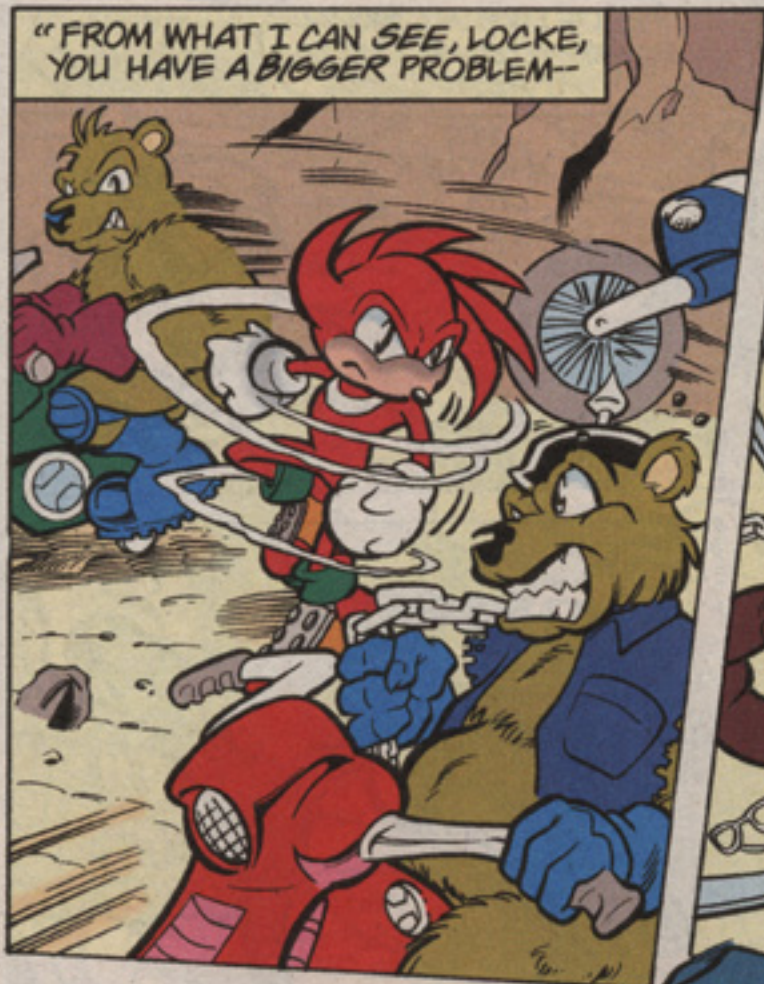
THAT
BEAR PACK
QUITE OBVIOUSLY
DIDN'T BARGAIN
ON WHAT THEY
GOT!

NO
ARGUMENT
THERE!

WHAT I'D LIKE TO
KNOW IS IF KNUCKLES IS
OPERATING ON INSTINCT--

"--OR DOES HE POSSESS THE
CAPABILITY TO PROPERLY
CHANNEL HIS ABILITIES?"

"FROM WHAT I CAN SEE, LOCKE,
YOU HAVE A BIGGER PROBLEM--"



"--IN THAT KNUCKLES IS DISPLAYING SUCH
RAW, NAKED POWER BEYOND ANYTHING
WE COULD HAVE FORESEEN!"



"MAYBE YOU, FATHER--"



"BUT NOT I."



DESPITE ALL THAT
POWER, KNUCKLES IS AKIN
TO A BULL IN A CHINA
SHOP, LOCKE!

HE'LL
NEED GUIDANCE
TO WIELD IT
PROPERLY!



ARCHIMEDES WILL
SHOW HIM HOW!

"I BELIEVE A BETTER
CANDIDATE CAN BE
FOUND IN YOUR
BATHROOM MIRROR, LOCKE!"

MANOHMAN!

FEELS LIKE MY SKULL
WANTS TO BUST OUTTA
MY HEAD!

NOT
ANOTHER
ONE!

ANOTHER
WHAT?

YAAAWWWNNN!

NOT ONLY AM
I BEAT, I'M ALSO
STARVING!

ANYTHING
TO EAT?

THAT'S
IT!!

LAST ONE
PICKS ME UP,
THIS ONE WANTS
TO PUT THE BITE
ON ME!

DOCTOR!!!

WHAT'S
HER PROB?

SAY, CHARM,
THAT DON'T
SOUND GOOD!

SHEESH!

ALRIGHT, EVERYONE!
YOU KNOW THE
DRILL!

TAKE YOUR
POSITIONS AND LET'S
DO THIS BY THE
NUMBERS!

"PREPARE THE SYRINGE, NURSE!"

YOU
STILL TAKING
PASSENGERS,
SIR?

I WAS
THE LAST TIME
I CHECKED,
BUB!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I CALL
A PROPER TONE TO ONE'S
SUPERIOR, HARRY!

WHAT BRINGS
YOU TO THESE PARTS,
GEN'RAL?

YOU'RE ADAPTING TOO
WELL TO THE STATUS
QUO, HARRY!

I CAN'T HAVE
THE TROOPS GETTING
FAT, STUPID AND
HAPPY ON ME!

YOU'RE
STILL A DINGO,
HARRY!

I DID
MY TOUR
OF DUTY,
STRYKER!

THAT MEANS
YOU'RE ONE OF US,
WHETHER YOU LIKE
IT OR NOT!

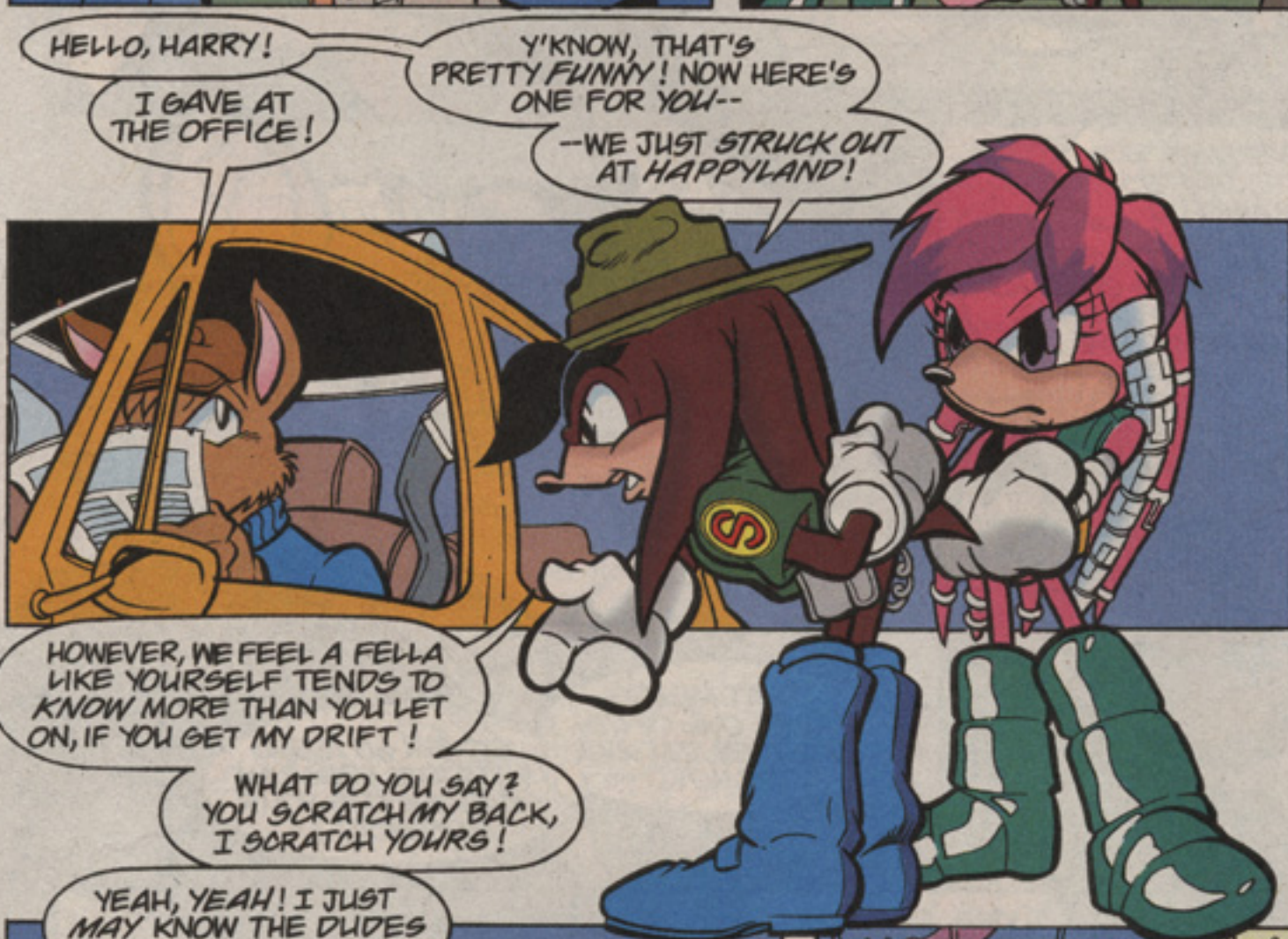
EITHER GO ALONG
WITH THE PROGRAM
OR ELSE IT'S YOUR
FUNERAL!

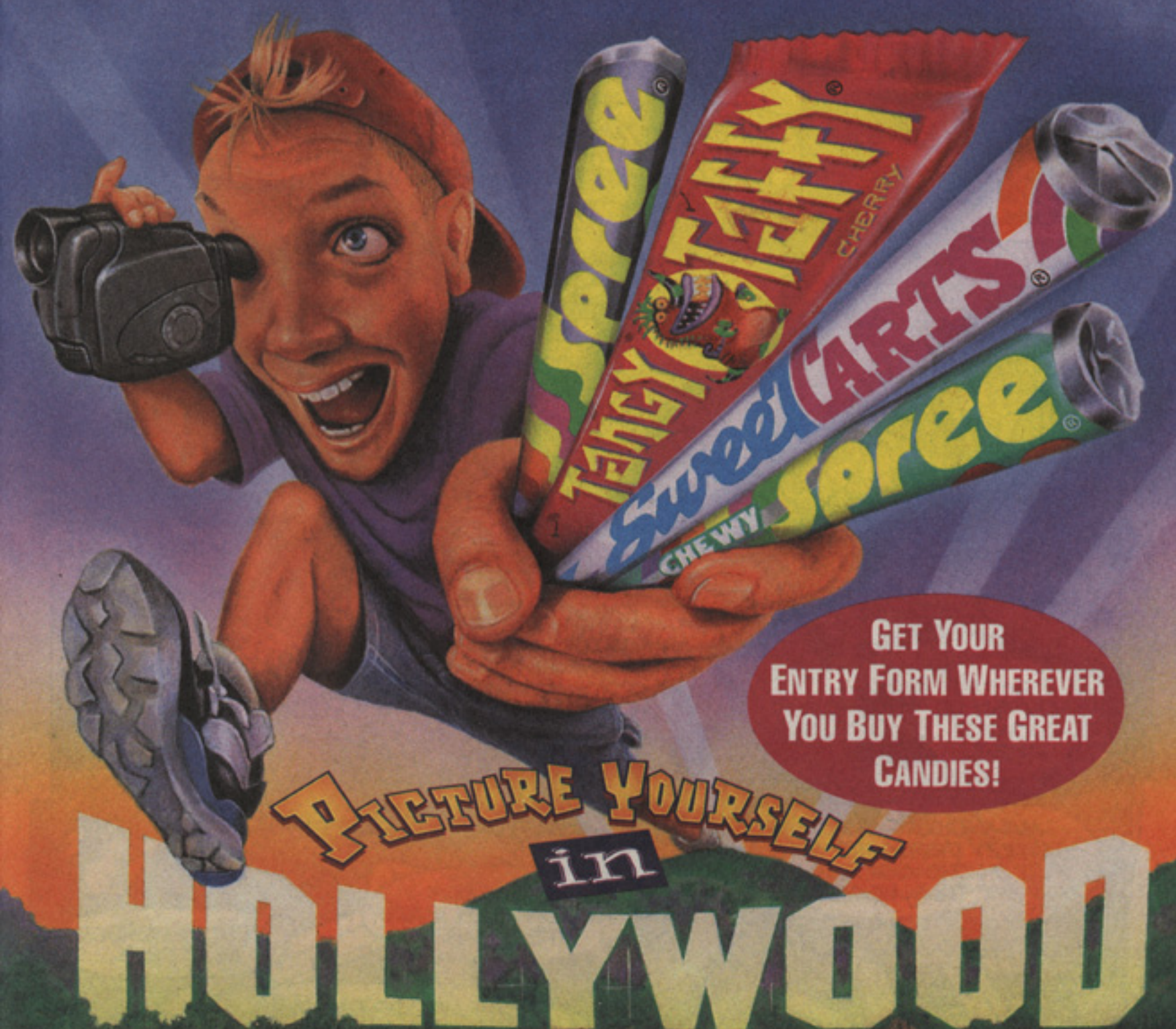
THOSE ARE SOME
OPTIONS!

THEY'RE
YOUR ONLY
OPTIONS!

I'LL SEE
YOU AROUND,
SOLDIER!

I CAN SEE
HE NEEDS MORE
FIBER IN HIS
DIET!





**GET YOUR
ENTRY FORM WHEREVER
YOU BUY THESE GREAT
CANDIES!**

**PICTURE YOURSELF
in**

HOLLYWOOD

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4. WINNERS: Notified by mail after 10-22-98. All responsibilities of minor assumed by parents/legal guardian. Winners required to prove eligibility. Failure of potential winner to verify address and execute and return Affidavit of Eligibility/Release within 10 days from date of notification, or return of notification as undeliverable, will result in selection of alternate winner. All taxes are sole responsibility of winner and/or winner's parents or guardian. All travelers required to execute Liability Release before ticketing. For winner's list (after 12-2-98) and/or rules, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Sweeps Address. WA and VT residents may omit return postage.
5. PROCEDURES: Sweepstakes begins 3-1-98, and ends 9-30-98. Winners selected from eligible entries in random drawing on or about 10-16-98, under supervision of Devan Direct Marketing, Inc., independent judging organization whose decisions are final. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries.

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"--IS TO TAKE US WHERE
THEY HANG OUT!"

HELLO?
IT'S FOR YOU,
BOSS!

BEE-JAY MOTHING!!
WHAT'S YANKIN'
YOUR LEASH?

A LADY?
LOOKIN'
TO DEAL?

YOU KEEP THE
BABE CHILLED UNTIL
I ARRIVE!

PUT THE PEDAL
TO THE METAL,
BLACKJACK--

"--I WANTS' TA MEET
WHOEVER WANTS IN
BEFORE WE'RE READY!"

WHAT DID
YOU SAY HE
LOOKED
LIKE?

MALE RABBIT--BLACK FUR,
SNAZZY DRESSER--WITH A
FOX ON ONE ARM AND A
TWO-BIT THUG NEARBY!

GUESS OUR
PIGEON JUST MADE
THE SCENE!

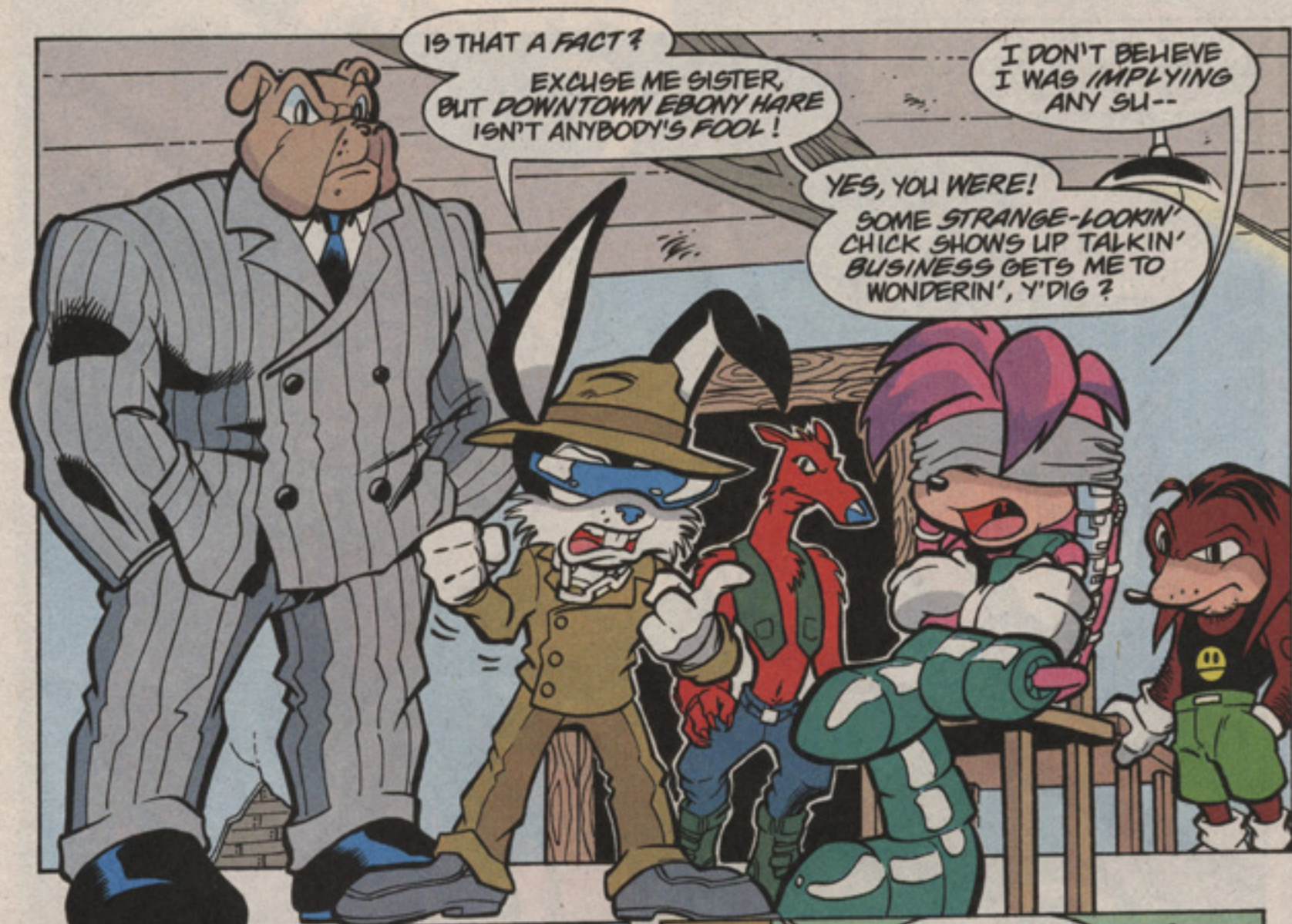
JUST REMEMBER
OUR DEAL.

THE UNPAID PARKING
TICKETS WILL BE SQUARED AWAY
IN THE MORNING, HARRY!

"THAT'S IF YOU LIVE TO SEE
TOMORROW, CONSTABLE!"

HEY, GUYS!

THIS ISN'T
ANY WAY TO CONDUCT
BUSINESS!



"--I'M SURE YOU AND BLACKJACK CAN HAVE A PLEASANT CONVERSATION!"



"--THAT'S ONE TOUGH COOKIE
WHO CAN HANDLE HERSELF IN
A TIGHT SITUATION!"

LET'S
SEE YOU TALK
YOUR WAY OUTTA
THIS!



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FISTFUL OF LETTERS NEXT MONTH:

EVERYTHING COMES TO A HEAD AS **THE CHAOTIX** BAND TOGETHER TO TAKE DOWN THE EVIL MACHINATIONS OF ONE **EBONY HARE** AND HIS HENCHMEN! THIS ISSUE ALSO MARKS THE DEPARTURE OF ONE OF THE CHAOTIX! ALSO, WATCH IN AWE AS **KNUCKLES'** POWERS DEVELOP AT AN ALARMING RATE, SPURNING A NEW GUARDIAN CONTROVERSY! JOIN **KEN PENDERS**, **MANNY GALAN** AND **ANDREW PEPOY** IN THE CONCLUSION OF "THE CHAOTIX CAPER!" **KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA #15** ON SALE JUNE 1998!

IN TWO WEEKS: **SONIC AND TAILS** TRAVEL TO THE ISLAND OF **DOWNUNDA** AND TEAM UP WITH THE **DOWNUNDA FREEDOM FIGHTERS** AGAINST... ONE OF THEIR

OWN? THIS STORY HAS SO MANY THRILLS AND CHILLS, DUNDEE-STYLE. STORY BY **MICHAEL GALLAGHER**. ART BY COVER INKER, **HARVEY "HARVO" MERCADOOCASIO**.

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #61 ON SALE MAY 1998!

IN OTHER SEGA NEWS:

NIGHTS INTO DREAMS IS NOW AN ONGOING SERIES! PICKING UP WHERE THE POPULAR MINI-SERIES LEFT OFF... **NIGHTS** NOW EXISTS IN THE WAKING WORLD. BUT HOW CAN A CREATURE OF DREAMS SURVIVE IN REALITY? THINGS GO FROM BAD TO WORSE AS **NIGHTS** COMICALLY TRIES HIS BEST TO FIGURE THE WORLD OUT FOR HIMSELF. AND WHAT OF **ELLIOT AND CLARIS**? IF **NIGHTS** IS IN

THE WAKING WORLD, HOW DOES THIS AFFECT THEM IN THEIR DREAMS? YOU CAN BE SURE **NIGHTS'** NEMESIS, **REALA**, WILL USE THIS TO HIS ADVANTAGE! STORY BY **KARL BOLLERS**. ART BY FAN FAVE **PATRICK "SPAZ" SPAZIANTE** AND **SAM MAXWELL** WITH INKS BY **HARVO**! **NIGHTS INTO DREAMS #4** ON SALE JUNE 1998!



**KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA #15**
ON SALE JUNE 1998!



**SONIC THE
HEDGEHOG #61**
ON SALE MAY 1998!



**NIGHTS
INTO DREAMS #4**
ON SALE JUNE 1998!

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14

CATCH YOU ON THE FLIP SIDE!

TREDDY

P.S. IF YOU LIVE IN OR ARE VISITING THE NYC AREA, YOU'LL WANT TO STOP BY THE BIG APPLE COMIC CONVENTION ON JUNE 6TH. SCHEDULED TO APPEAR ARE **KEN PENDERS**, **MANNY GALAN**, **SPAZ** AS WELL AS MANY OTHERS.

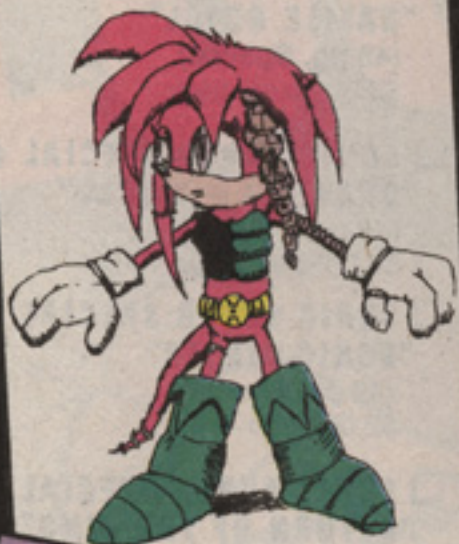
NOTE: DUE TO AN OVERWHELMING AMOUNT OF E-MAIL, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO REPLY PERSONALLY TO EACH AND EVERY MESSAGE. HOWEVER, YOUR OPINIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO US AND EACH MESSAGE WILL BE READ.

THANKS FOR
UNDERSTANDING!

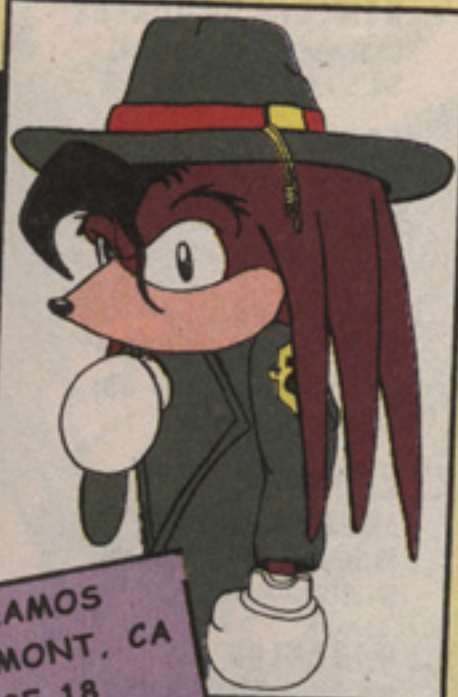


FAN ART

KNUCKLES



BRENDON
RANDALL MYERS
MILLSTONE, WV



J RAMOS
CLAREMONT, CA
AGE 18

BRIAN COOK
ST. HOLLAND MI
AGE 13



NOELLE "T2" CARBALLO
CHANDLER, AZ
AGE 13



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PRINTED, PLEASE SEND A BLACK &
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(NO ORIGINALS)
TO: "KNUCKLES
FAN ART #14"
c/o ARCHIE COMIC
PUBLICATIONS, INC.
P.O. BOX 419
MAMARONECK, NY
10543-0419

HEY KNUX,
I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT HOW MY
BROTHER AND I BECAME FANS OF YOURS (A.K.A.:
"KNUCKRAHOLICS"). MY BROTHER'S FRIEND, CALEB,
BROUGHT SOME OF YOUR COMICS TO SCHOOL. HE
LET MY BROTHER BORROW THEM. MY BROTHER
SHOWED ME THE COMICS AND WE GOT HOOKED
ON THEM. QUESTION TIME: 1) HOW OLD ARE YOU?
2) WHAT IS YOUR MOTHER'S NAME? 3) WHAT ARE
THE CHAOTIX'S POWERS?
SHAUN HEISE
C/O MONTY HEISE
VAN BUREN, MO

ALWAYS GLAD TO HAVE MORE
FANS ON THE KNUCKLES BANDWAG-
ON. YOU'VE HAVE TO THANK YOUR
BROTHER AND HIS FRIEND FOR ME.
ANSWER TIME: 1) FIFTEEN YEARS OF
AGE. 2) MY MOTHER'S NAME IS
LARA-LE. 3) I'M ONLY STARTING TO
LEARN MY POWERS SO I DON'T
REALLY KNOW. AS FOR THE REST OF
THE GROUP: MIGHTY HAS SUPER
STRENGTH; ESPIO CAN BLEND WITH
HIS BACKGROUNDS. CHARMY CAN
SHRINK TO A SMALL SIZE AND FLY;
VECTOR CAN SWIM AND —UH—
TOLERATE LOUD SOUNDS!

NOTES FROM THE NET



DEAR KNUX,
I THINK YOUR SERIES IS GREAT! I FIRST
SAW YOU AT THE END OF THE FIRST KNUCKLES
MINI-SERIES AND HAVE BEEN MY MOST FAVORITE
CHARACTER EVER SINCE! I JUST READ KNUCKLES #8.
IT WAS PRETTY RAD! I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND
HOW JULIE-SU CAN TURN ON THE CHAOTIX! AND,
MAN, WERE YOU TOUGH DURING YOUR "LITTLE RIDE"
WITH ENERJAK. 1) HOW DID THE POWER OF
ELEVEN CHAOS EMERALDS FUSE INTO HIM ANYWAY?
2) WHEN WILL YOU SEE YOUR DAD AGAIN? 3) HOW
DO YOUR DREADS HELP YOU GLIDE? OH YEAH, TELL
CHARMY I THINK HE'S BOTH CUTE AND CHARMING AS
WELL AS TOUGH FOR A LITTLE GUY.

A.W.
mwack@nothnbut.net

I HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE
TO SPEAK TO JULIE-SU MYSELF SO I
DON'T KNOW WHAT HER SIDE OF
THE STORY IS. ESPECIALLY AFTER
TURNING BACK ON KRAGOK AND THE
DARK LEGION WHEN IT REALLY
COUNTED. 1) ENERJAK USED A
MACHINE CALLED THE CHAOS
SYPHON THAT OVERLOADED AND
ACCIDENTALLY FUSED THE POWER OF
ELEVEN CHAOS EMERALDS TO HIS
BODY. ENERJAK'S ORIGIN WAS SHOWN
IN SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #35 &
#36. 2) THAT'S A QUESTION I WANT
ANSWERED MYSELF. 3) I USED TO
THINK ALL ECHIDNAS COULD GLIDE
BY USING THEIR DREADS. NOW I
KNOW THAT IT'S A POWER ONLY
GUARDIANS HAVE. IN FACT, ONCE I
LEARN HOW TO CONTROL IT BETTER,
I'LL BE ABLE TO LEVITATE INSTEAD
OF JUST GLIDING. THOUGH I HAVE TO
ADMIT I'VE DONE IT WITHOUT
THINKING ABOUT IT ONCE OR TWICE
BEFORE WHEN I GOT ANGRY (SEE
THE END OF MECHA MADNESS #1).

SO UNTIL NEXT
MONTH, STAY COOL!



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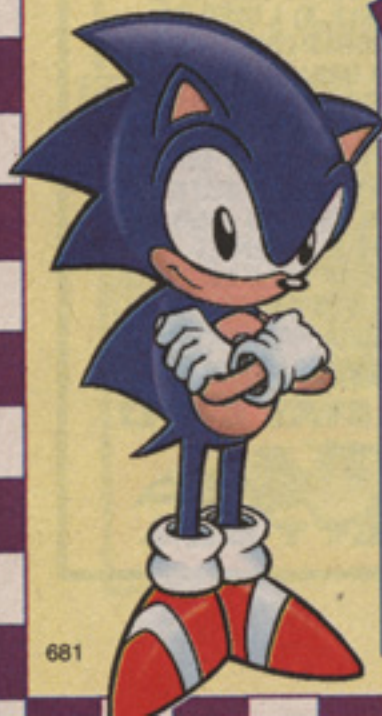
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